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**Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)**

**Summary record of the 17th meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 14 November 1997, at 3 p.m.

*Chairman*: Mr. Mapuranga ..... (Zimbabwe)

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Agenda item 88: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

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*The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.*

**Agenda item 88: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects** (*continued*) (A/52/209, A/C.4/52/L.9/Rev.1)

1. **Ms. Eshmambetova** (Kyrgyzstan) said that in the past 10 years, peacekeeping had become a crucial instrument for reducing conflict and consolidating peace within the borders of some Member States, particularly in Africa. Some anticipated that there would be increased participation by Member States in the standby arrangements system in the future, while others foresaw a time when peacekeeping would be streamlined and perhaps even reduced. However, the international community must keep in mind that the potential for conflicts between States still existed and that flexible approaches which must be worked out respected the letter and spirit of the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations to address such conflicts.

2. The cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, which had proved very useful in that context, must be increased. Likewise, the process of consultations between the Security Council, troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat must be strengthened and the participation of elements of civil society should be encouraged with a view to gaining their support for the implementation of United Nations decisions regarding peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building. It must be made very clear to the offending parties that the international community stood behind the actions and decisions of the Security Council.

3. Naturally, when faced with a potential conflict, priority should be given to preventive diplomacy, as the most appropriate alternative from all points of view. That would require a strengthening of the United Nations capacity to negotiate and of the Secretariat's capacity to analyse the root causes of conflict. Peacekeeping operations must not only enjoy the trust and confidence of the international community, but they must also have adequate technical and human resources. Her delegation fully agreed with the recommendations and conclusions contained in the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/52/209).

4. **Mr. Hrbáč** (Slovakia) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Luxembourg on behalf of the European Union. Although the United Nations had succeeded many times in bringing parties involved in a conflict to the negotiating table, in some cases its peacekeeping efforts had failed for various reasons.

5. Paradoxically, the situation had become more complex after the end of the cold war. Many intra-State conflicts had external repercussions and disastrous humanitarian implications. The fact that the authors of the Charter of the United Nations had not anticipated intra-State instability as a threat to international peace and security, had made it more difficult to decide whether or not the international community should intervene in a particular conflict. Furthermore, there was still controversy over whether or not a humanitarian crisis posed a threat to international peace and security.

6. While, for various reasons, peacekeeping activities had been declining there had not been a parallel decline in the level of conflict requiring international attention. Past setbacks should be examined in order to determine what had gone wrong and thus gain a better understanding of the complexity of current conflicts, with a view to finding solutions to them, rather than being viewed as a justification for diminished political willingness to tackle critical issues through the United Nations. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations had done commendable work in that regard. His delegation welcomed the expansion of the Committee membership, and endorsed the proposals, recommendations and conclusions contained in its report (A/52/209).

7. All stages of a peace operation – prevention, peacekeeping and post-conflict peace-building – should receive the same attention. His delegation thus welcomed the report of the Secretary-General concerning a programme for reform (A/51/950) and the measures proposed therein concerning peace and security. It urged the Secretariat to continue to enhance a system of early warning analysis of potential sources of conflict which would provide the Security Council and other concerned organizations with accurate information and timely advice so that the necessary preventive action could be taken. It was regrettable that the rapidly deployable mission headquarters unit was still not operational. His delegation hoped that the situation would soon be resolved and that further improvements would be made to the system of standby arrangements; his country was ready to participate actively in that system.

8. Current conflicts were characterized by hatred and mistrust, by ruined local economies and infrastructure and by high numbers of refugees and displaced persons. In order to find a durable solution, it was essential to work on peace-building once a conflict had ended; that was not a simple task, as those who had followed closely the situation in the

former Yugoslavia had learned. In order to reconstruct a conflict-torn society, re-establish democracy and respect for human rights and create the conditions that would allow development to resume, the participation of many elements was required, including specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations.

9. Since its establishment as an independent State in January 1993, Slovakia had participated actively in United Nations peacekeeping operations. With over 600 troops serving during 1997 in the United Nations Transitional Administration in Western Slovenia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES), and with several military observers in Angola, Slovakia was one of the major troop-contributing countries relative to the size of its population and it was determined to continue contributing to such operations. It supported the proposal that part of the first day of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly should be devoted to a commemoration of those who had served in peacekeeping operations, especially those who had lost their lives under the United Nations flag.

10. **Mr. Gogsadze** (Georgia) stressed the importance and effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping operations for the maintenance of international peace and security. Since August 1993, the United Nations had been maintaining a peacekeeping operation in Georgia in order to resolve the crisis in Abkhazia.

11. There was no doubt about the importance of preventive diplomacy, especially when used in a timely manner, since it covered a broad range of political, economic, humanitarian and, when necessary, some sort of military measures, such as the preventive deployment of forces. His delegation considered it appropriate to establish a United Nations preventive diplomacy centre which would be responsible for elaborating a theoretical and practical framework for the planning, preparation and execution of preventive operations by the Organization.

12. Prevention should comprise two phases, namely, the negotiation stage, and the preventive deployment stage should the negotiations fail. Accordingly, the proposed centre should be able to rely, on the one hand, on a team of negotiators capable of developing appropriate and flexible tactics that could be tailored to the specific characteristics and needs of the region and country where there was a conflict. On the other hand, it should have military and paramilitary specialists who, should the negotiations fail, would recommend the rules and procedures for the use of United Nations forces. Those two units, with the assistance of a small information collection and analysis group, would try to forecast potential conflicts and would work together should a conflict become inevitable.

13. Until 1988, conflicts were usually between States. Since then, intra-state conflicts, characterized by greater violence and aggressive separatism, a phenomenon which was impeding progress towards democracy and recovery in Georgia and other countries, had been proliferating. In that regard, peacekeeping operations must combine mechanisms involving traditional and not so traditional measures.

14. The time was perhaps ripe for launching peacekeeping operations before a ceasefire agreement was signed, when it became evident that the parties were ready to reach agreement and to begin peace talks. Should one party try to prolong the conflict on the grounds that it was not ready for negotiations, the decision to launch an operation should be taken with the utmost care in order to avoid unnecessary human suffering. The deployment of such an operation should be carried out without compromising the integrity or impartiality of the United Nations.

15. There was no doubt that peace enforcement efforts could be successful only if they were based on clearly defined political objectives and a realistic plan. Deployment should only be a short prelude to negotiations and other political efforts towards a gradual solution to the problem. Thus far, in negotiations the parties to a conflict were usually accorded equal treatment, regardless of whether they were the representatives of legitimate Governments or illegal military groups. That practice was unjustified, since a distinction must be made between officials representing States Members of the United Nations and those threatening the territorial integrity of States.

16. Despite the active involvement of the United Nations in Abkhazia, the 17 resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the 14 statements made by its President regarding the situation in Georgia, 300,000 Georgian refugees were still awaiting security guarantees which would allow them to return to their homes.

17. Peacekeeping operations could be used to prevent the illicit traffic in conventional weapons, which was becoming a major threat to the security of States and to regional stability. The separatist regime in Abkhazia, armed with the most modern small arms, continued forcibly to retain part of the captured territory, preventing a just and prompt solution to the problem.

18. While cooperation with regional organizations offered definite advantages, such as the valuable cooperation in Abkhazia between the peacekeeping .forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the United

Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG), the United Nations nevertheless had primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. His delegation welcomed the creation and strengthening of the standby arrangements system and the development of a rapidly deployable mission headquarters unit, as well as the initiative on the establishment of the Multinational United Nations Standby Forces High-Readiness Brigade (SHIRBRIG).

19. **Mr. Mahugu** (Kenya) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made on the issue before the Committee by the representative of Thailand on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. Kenya was proud to contribute both troops and equipment to peacekeeping operations in various parts of the world. Although peacemaking and peace-building were the cornerstones for ensuring peace throughout the world, peacekeeping operations should be governed by the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and non-intervention in matters that were within the domestic jurisdiction of a State.

20. The international community's reluctance to support operations in Africa, as in the cases of Rwanda and Burundi, and more recently in Sierra Leone and the Congo, was a departure from the responsibilities of the United Nations enshrined in the Charter. The role of peacekeeping and peace enforcement must remain the responsibility of the United Nations, and in particular the Security Council, in accordance with the Charter. Conflicts in Africa must, therefore, be handled in the same timely fashion as those in other regions.

21. While he recognized the need for the involvement of the affected countries and regional organizations in the settlement of conflicts, the involvement of such organizations in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts should not entail a derogation of the responsibilities of the United Nations under the Charter. While his delegation wished to reiterate the position of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries with respect to the United Nations standby arrangement system, it was concerned about the selectivity of the arrangements relating to the proposed Multinational United Nations Standby Forces High-Readiness Brigade (SHIRBRIG), and called for transparency on that matter.

22. **Mr. Droushiotis** (Cyprus) said that Cyprus was a case study of the relevance and effectiveness of peacekeeping operations and the necessary components of peacemaking and peace-building. In December 1963, Cyprus had requested the assistance of the United Nations in the face of the threat of invasion by a much stronger neighbouring country. The United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) had been established in 1964. In 1965, the Mediator appointed by the United Nations had submitted an exemplary report which, if it had been accepted by all the parties concerned, would have solved the problem at that time.

23. Following the 1974 invasion, the Security Council and the General Assembly had unanimously adopted resolutions demanding respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the Republic of Cyprus and the immediate withdrawal of foreign troops. UNFICYP had admirably fulfilled its role and had carried out other functions to alleviate human suffering resulting from the military occupation and the artificial division of the island.

24. Twenty-three years had passed, however, and the Cyprus problem remained unresolved. That demonstrated the need for peacekeeping operations to be accompanied by an intensive effort of peacemaking. As long as one of the parties was not willing to comply with the decisions adopted by the international community, and the international community was not able to act effectively to implement the resolutions it had approved, the problem would continue indefinitely. The answer lay not in abandoning peacekeeping efforts, leaving the weak at the mercy of the strong, but in pressing on with the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions by all available means. In the case of Cyprus, the reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council included many options, including the adoption of coercive measures against the side which had consistently flouted the wishes of the international community.

25. The occupation troops in Cyprus, instead of withdrawing, had been strengthened and modernized and their military arsenal had reached alarming proportions. In that respect, it should be noted that the acceptance of the proposal by the President of Cyprus for the total demilitarization of Cyprus would be beneficial for all the parties concerned and would contribute to peace in the region.

26. Peacekeeping operations needed stable financial foundations; his delegation therefore reiterated the need for Member States to pay their contributions in full and on time. His Government was voluntarily contributing one third of the total cost of UNFICYP and was currently contributing a third more than its assessed contribution to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

27. The Government and people of Cyprus expressed deep appreciation to UNFICYP to the commander of the Force and to the countries which contributed to the Force for

serving the cause of peace. Cyprus considered it befitting that the General Assembly would be devoting a commemorative meeting at its fifty-third session to mark the fiftieth anniversary of peacekeeping operations and remember those who had served in those operations, especially those who had lost their lives under the United Nations flag.

28. **Mr. Mounkhou** (Mongolia) said that peacekeeping operations were an essential instrument for maintaining international peace and security. Although the number and size of such operations had diminished in recent years, post-cold war international developments showed the need for more complex, multidimensional peacekeeping activities in the future.

29. It was imperative to ensure the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, including strict observance of the purposes and principles of the Charter, in particular the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-intervention in matters falling essentially within domestic jurisdiction. It was also necessary to ensure full respect for the basic principles of peacekeeping operations such as consent of the parties, impartiality, and non-use of force except in cases of self-defence. The success of peacekeeping operations depended on their having clearly defined mandates, objectives and command structures and secure financing.

30. Although peacekeeping operations were indispensable, they did not represent the preferred method for achieving durable solutions of disputes since they were undertaken primarily to prevent conflict situations from escalating while efforts to resolve them peacefully were being pursued. It was therefore necessary to stress the importance of preventive deployment and the early resolution of conflicts, which saved lives and reduced the need for the establishment of new and costly peacekeeping operations.

31. Mongolia agreed with the Special Committee that peacekeeping operations should not be used as a substitute for measures to address the root causes of conflicts in a coherent, well-planned and coordinated manner, using political, social, economic and developmental instruments. A broad concept of preventive diplomacy must be applied to achieve durable peace and security.

32. In order to achieve a durable solution of conflicts, long-term programmes aimed at strengthening the foundations of peace were required. In that regard, Mongolia stressed the importance of the concept of the culture of peace, which should integrate various elements such as respect for human rights, adherence to the principles of democracy, freedom, justice and pluralism, acceptance of differences, and understanding between nations and between ethnic, religious, cultural and other groups. His delegation welcomed the initiative to draft a declaration and programme of action on a culture of peace.

33. **Mr. Sklar** (United States of America) said that his Government was strongly in favour of the initiatives to improve the efficiency of peacekeeping operations, including the establishment of the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters, and announced that the United States of America had recently donated $200,000 to the trust fund for that purpose.

34. The United States of America welcomed General Assembly resolution 51/243 on gratis personnel, approved recently. Gratis personnel had provided the Secretariat with critical specialized expertise during times of great need for the United Nations. His delegation recommended that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should conduct a complete review of its personnel, bearing in mind budget limitations, to determine the appropriate positions to be filled by civilian and military specialists in order to implement the resolution. The Department should retain its capacity to plan, deploy and support peacekeeping operations efficiently throughout the transition period.

35. The United States of America was pleased that the Special Committee recognized the important role played by logistics in peacekeeping operations and strongly endorsed new concepts like the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi and the new field asset control system. That system should be the first step in the development by the Department of a comprehensive worldwide logistics strategy.

36. The United States of America recognized its obligation to pay the arrears in its assessments for the financing of peacekeeping operations so that the United Nations could provide reimbursements to the troop-contributing countries. It also believed that the scale of assessments methodology for peacekeeping could be improved. A standardized, equitable scale should be agreed on and implemented. Although the United States of America was prepared to remain the largest contributor to peacekeeping operations, it believed that certain reforms were needed to make the scale truly equitable.

37. **Mr. Matuszewski** (Poland) said that Poland subscribed to the statement made by the representative of Luxembourg on behalf of the European Union and wished to reaffirm its support for peacekeeping operations as an important tool at the disposal of the United Nations for preserving international peace and security. Nevertheless, recent developments had shown that the traditional concept

of peacekeeping did not exactly fit the modalities of action expected from the Organization at the current time. Strict adherence to established principles of peacekeeping had contributed to the growing trend in the United Nations and the Security Council to authorize operations to be undertaken by one or more interested countries rather than the full-fledged United Nations operations based on Chapter VII of the Charter.

38. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations could strengthen the ability of both partners to assist in resolving certain crises. The modalities of such cooperation in the area of peacekeeping should be thoroughly discussed and advantage taken of the experience gained in recent years. In that connection, he wished to recognize the efforts made by the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity to strengthen the mechanism of conflict prevention and peacekeeping capacity in Africa. He welcomed the closer ties between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in the area of peacekeeping and assured the Committee that when Poland assumed the office of Chairman of OSCE in January 1998, it would continue to promote such cooperation.

39. Poland participated in various peacekeeping activities undertaken under the auspices of regional arrangements or organizations. Polish soldiers served with the Stabilization Force (SFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina and were part of the international peace effort in Georgia. Within two years, the joint Polish-Ukrainian and Polish-Lithuanian battalions which had been established for the purpose of taking part in United Nations peacekeeping missions should become operational.

40. Poland welcomed the efforts being made to improve the Organization's capacity to respond more rapidly to emerging conflict situations. The concept of standby arrangements enjoyed increasing support from Member States. While the Multinational United Nations Standby Forces High-Readiness Brigade (SHIRBRIG) would soon be operational, more consultations were still needed on the rapidly deployable mission headquarters, especially with regard to funding and to the implementation of the principles of transparency and appropriate geographical distribution of posts. Poland welcomed the growing recognition of the role of civilian police in increasingly complex peacekeeping operations and fully supported plans to include police elements in standby arrangements.

41. His Government noted with regret the threats to the safety of United Nations peacekeeping personnel and stressed the importance of the early entry into force of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. On the subject of the staffing of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, General Assembly resolution 51/243 constituted an appropriate and much-needed basis for addressing the issue. Nevertheless, Poland hoped that the process of replacing gratis personnel would not affect the Department's ability to carry out its functions.

42. Turning to another issue, delays in reimbursements could negatively affect Poland's ability to maintain its current level of contributions to United Nations peacekeeping operations. It welcomed the increase in membership of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. It was important that issues as important as those dealt with by the Special Committee, including the lives of peacekeepers, should be addressed from the broadest possible perspective. By increasing its membership, the Committee had greatly enhanced its strength and authority.

43. **Mr. Yel'chenko** (Ukraine) drew attention to the complex and multi-functional character which peacekeeping operations had acquired in recent years. The effective conduct of such operations required closer integration of political, military, humanitarian and economic actions, as well as collective security efforts at the global and regional levels. At the same time, the lack of clear-cut approaches and adequate instruments and resources impaired the Organization's ability to respond appropriately to the complex nature of contemporary conflicts, which threatened international peace and security. That tendency was the result of not only the critical financial situation of the United Nations but also of the lack of a sufficiently clear conceptual basis. In that connection, Ukraine supported the elaboration and adoption of a comprehensive concept of a political and legal nature on the deployment and conduct of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

44. Ukraine had been participating in United Nations peacekeeping activities for over five years and its participation was currently one the main priorities of the Government's foreign policy. Nearly 8,000 military and civilian personnel from Ukraine had taken part in more than 10 United Nations peacekeeping and humanitarian operations, including elections monitoring. In that connection, he wished to refer to the joint declaration by the Presidents of Ukraine and Georgia, dated 29 October 1997, in which the two leaders confirmed the readiness of Ukraine to participate in the process of peaceful settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia, by dispatching a military contingent to the area under the auspices of the United Nations and by broadening its involvement in the activities currently being undertaken there by the United Nations and OSCE.

45. The process of renewal and reform of the United Nations could not be successful without effective strengthening of the Organization's capacity in the field of the maintenance of international peace and security. In that regard, Ukraine noted with satisfaction the increased understanding among Member States of the need to enhance the capacity of the United Nations in the area of conflict prevention, welcomed the constructive initiatives of Member States in that field, such as Norway's proposal for the establishment of a trust fund for preventive action, and commended Norway on its decision to pledge US$ 4 million to the fund.

46. Ukraine favoured further development of the standby arrangements system. On 6 August 1997, a memorandum of understanding had been signed between Ukraine and the United Nations, pursuant to which Ukraine had already identified the personnel and material resources which it intended to provide for the system. One of the important complements to the standby arrangement system would be the establishment of the rapidly deployable mission headquarters. In that connection, it would be necessary to formulate clear principles and prerequisites for deployment of the headquarters and to ensure that the principle of equitable geographical representation was observed in the composition of such headquarters. Ukraine also welcomed the establishment of the Multinational United Nations Standby Forces High-Readiness Brigade.

47. The safety of United Nations personnel continued to be a cause of concern for Ukraine. Measures to ensure the safety of United Nations personnel should therefore be given priority attention during the planning stages of any peacekeeping operation. In that regard, it was essential for all Member States to consider acceding to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.

48. The critical financial situation of the United Nations had made countries like Ukraine hostages to the existing inflexible and ad hoc system for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations. It was for that reason that Ukraine had accumulated considerable arrears for the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations. General Assembly resolution 50/224 had started the transition of Ukraine to Group C of the scheme for the apportionment of peacekeeping expenses, even though the provisions of the resolution did not envisage an expeditious settlement of the problem.

49. Ukraine favoured the further development of cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements in the field of peacekeeping and stressed that such cooperation should always be pursued in compliance with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and with the principle that no State could arrogate to itself the right to be the main guarantor of peace and security in a region. The successful experience of cooperation between the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the European Union, OSCE and other international organizations in the settlement of the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina should evolve into a permanent mechanism of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and international organizations.

50. **Mr. Sanoto** (Botswana) said that his country associated itself with the statement made at an earlier meeting by the representative of Thailand on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. His delegation believed that preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and post-conflict peace-building should remain the guiding principles of United Nations peacekeeping, and urged the United Nations to develop and strengthen its early-warning mechanisms so that it could act prior to the outbreak of conflicts. Such mechanisms would not only be cost-effective but would also enhance the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. In that regard, he urged the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to continue to explore practical means of employing preventive diplomacy.

51. Furthermore, the importance of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations and arrangements could not be overemphasized. Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations provided for the peaceful settlement of local disputes through regional arrangements, although it clearly stipulated that no enforcement action should be taken by regional agencies without the authorization of the Security Council. In order to promote peace and stability in the African countries, the international community should use practical, meaningful ways of stimulating the development and democratization of political institutions and structures. Investors must be assured of economic and political stability as a basis for economic development and an indispensable prerequisite for avoiding intra- and extra-State conflicts.

52. In that regard, the international community should broaden its cooperation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and recognize the commendable work done by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in resolving the conflict in Liberia. But while regional and subregional arrangements could make meaningful contributions to international peace and security so long as they had the financial and material support of the international community, they could not substitute for the Security Council's responsibility under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security.

53. The financing of peacekeeping operations was of particular importance for developing countries with limited resources. The financial situation of peacekeeping operations carried out by regional arrangements could only worsen if the debt owed to troop-contributing countries was not paid. In future, that might make those States reluctant to contribute troops and equipment to United Nations peacekeeping operations and to regional and subregional arrangements.

54. **Mr. Ahmed** (Bangladesh) said that his delegation also associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Thailand on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. Bangladesh's firm commitment to United Nations peacekeeping activities emanated from the principles enshrined in its Constitution. Since the late 1980s, when Bangladesh had begun its involvement in United Nations peacekeeping activities, it had played a leading role as one of the principal States which contributed troops to those missions, and it hoped to continue to do so in the future.

55. His delegation welcomed the proposals on peacekeeping contained in the Secretary-General's report entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform" (A/52/950) and fully endorsed the Secretary-General's opinion, expressed in that report, concerning the importance of preventing crisis situations from exploding into conflicts. His delegation believed that preventive diplomacy was a vital aspect of peacekeeping.

56. His Government supported the concept of rapidly deployable mission headquarters, and hoped that a plan which took into account the views of all United Nations Member States would soon be developed. In the appointment of personnel serving at such headquarters, the principle of parity between developed and developing countries should be observed. Bangladesh was prepared to contribute military and civilian personnel, and supported the establishment of a trust fund to make the establishment of those headquarters a reality.

57. His delegation was deeply concerned at the use of gratis personnel by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. It was clear that while developed countries were in a position to provide personnel on an unpaid basis, developing countries were unable to do so. As a result, there was a clear disparity between officials from developed and developing countries in the staff of that Department, an imbalance which must be rectified as soon as possible.

58. His Government concurred with the view expressed by other Member States concerning the reluctance of some countries to pay their contributions to the United Nations peacekeeping budget. The financing of peacekeeping operations was the collective responsibility of all United Nations Member States. The decision of those countries not to pay their contributions had made it impossible for the United Nations to reimburse troop-contributing countries and, in particular, developing countries and least developed countries such as Bangladesh. In some cases, failure to make such reimbursement had threatened the success of certain peacekeeping operations. It was, therefore, imperative that all Member States, especially the developed ones, should pay their contributions without conditions, in full and on time.

59. There was also a need to eliminate disparities in the payment of compensation for the death or disability of personnel serving in United Nations peacekeeping missions. It was unfortunate that, at present, different scales of compensation were used according to the country of origin of the staff member in question. That anomaly must be removed immediately, and a uniform scale of compensation for death or disability of United Nations peacekeepers must be established.

60. **Mr. Miyet** (Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations) said he wished to close the discussion on the item under consideration by allaying the fears expressed by several delegations at earlier meetings. First of all, 50 per cent of the need for professional staff in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was met through gratis personnel. While that was a wholly unsatisfactory situation, it would be foolish to believe that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations could dispense with that type of personnel in the near future. The Department was wholly committed to reducing the number of such posts and planned to submit a report on the Department's needs and reorganization, including budget proposals, in the spring.

61. In his nine months as head of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, he had, with great satisfaction, become convinced of the quality and integrity of the gratis personnel, both civilian and military, and had never believed that the presence of such personnel had been detrimental to the principles of impartiality and neutrality. In addition, he commended the Assistant Secretaries-General and all the personnel of the Department for their conscientious work and expressed appreciation to all Member States for their contribution to peacekeeping operations.

62. It was clear, however, that it would be preferable to return to a more balanced situation in which all States had the feeling that they were participating fully and that their rights and interests were well represented. As some delegations had pointed out, the question of gratis personnel

could have repercussions on such sensitive issues as procurement and reimbursements to States. Moreover, it was clear that some Member States felt frustrated by the current situation.

63. With regard to the rapid deployment capacity of the United Nations, he had made every effort to obtain financial resources for the voluntary trust fund in order to establish a rapidly deployable mission headquarters, based on consideration of geographical balance. While, regrettably, the necessary contributions had still not been obtained, new proposals for obtaining financial resources for that purpose could perhaps be made in the spring. Nevertheless, it should be kept in mind that if the use of gratis personnel had been eliminated by then, the rapidly deployable mission headquarters would lack sufficient human resources and would therefore be useless. The initiative would be utilized to re-evaluate the needs of the Department and broaden the representation of Member States within it.

64. The Secretary-General wished to maintain the most active possible cooperation with regional organizations, especially those with which close ties existed. A balance must be sought, however, since regional organizations could not be asked to take responsibility in every area. The United Nations and the Security Council played a fundamental role in the area of peacekeeping and must not abdicate their responsibilities in that regard.

65. With regard to the questions on which various delegations had expressed doubts, he said that the growing importance of the civilian police component in peacekeeping operations reflected new situations, in which instability was very often of an intragovernmental nature, and the success of an operation depended on the evolution of a State's internal situation. With that in mind, what was involved was a capacity which required attention and must be strengthened in order for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to be able to cope with future situations.

66. With regard to the transfer of the functions of the Mine Clearance and Policy Unit of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, he gave assurances that the Unit would continue to pursue its humanitarian objectives and that the humanitarian principles which characterized its work would not be abandoned. Operations would continue to be carried out in close cooperation with other organizations of the United Nations system, which would have operational responsibility for demining. What was primarily involved was maintaining a spirit of cooperation and complementarity, not competitiveness.

67. **The Chairman** agreed with the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations that it would be unwise for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to dispense abruptly with the services of gratis personnel; he wondered whether a timetable had been developed to phase out the use of such personnel.

68. **Mr. Miyet** (Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations) said that he would opt for the elimination of posts through natural attrition, which had already begun. That choice meant simply taking into account the expiration dates of the various contracts. Furthermore, the basic needs and future work of the Department would be evaluated in order to determine which posts should be retained. Thus, it might be possible in the spring to convert the posts staffed by gratis personnel into authorized posts, which would be open to nationals of any country. In other cases, the provisions of paragraph 4 (a) and (b) of General Assembly resolution 51/243, which allowed the use of gratis personnel to provide expertise not available within the Organization for very specialized functions or in the case of new and/or expanded mandates of the Organization, would apply. In those cases, the Department would continue to use gratis personnel. However that might be, he hoped that there would be rapid developments in the situation beginning in the spring.

*Draft resolution A/C.4/52/L.9/Rev.1*

69. **The Chairman** introduced draft resolution A/C.4/52/L.9/Rev.1 concerning the item under consideration; the sponsors of the draft resolution hoped that it could be adopted without a vote.

70. **Mr. Farghal** (Jordan) drew the attention of the Committee to discrepancies between the English and Arabic versions of the draft resolution which altered its meaning, and requested that the necessary revisions should be made.

71. **The Chairman** said that if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee preferred not to consider those discrepancies at the current meeting, but to request the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services to prepare a new Arabic text.

72. *It was so decided.*

73. **The Chairman** said that if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.4/52/L.9/Rev.1 without a vote.

74. *Draft resolution A/C.4/52/L.9/Rev.1 was adopted.*

75. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 88.

*The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.*